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TERSE TALES OF THE TOWN

Roof Blaze—

The fire department was summoned to a small roof blaze on 38th street yesterday morning at 10 o'clock, and promptly met and subdued the incipient fire, which was barren of damage.

New Fire Box In—

Fire Chief C. E. Foster was busy yesterday installing another fire alarm box, at Eleventh street and Franklin avenue. It is "No. 8" and worked like a charm when tested up last evening at 5 o'clock.

Services At Hammond—

The Rev. W. S. Short, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, announced Sunday evening that he would hold services at Hammond on Wednesday evening of this week. Rev. John Warren will assist in the Hammond services.

Doing Well—

Miss Jennie Johnson, of Knappa, who was brought to St. Mary's hospital last week to be operated on for appendicitis, is doing nicely and it is thought that her complete recovery will now be rapid, and she will be able to return home in a short time.

No Fall-Off There—

In making up the totals of his freight handling, in and out of this station, for the last fiscal year, yesterday, City Agent Giles B. Johnson found that that element of the company's business had increased over 1907, by practically 100 cars, a circumstance he was very glad to note and report.

Former Astorian Dead—

Christ Thompson, a former resident of Astoria, is reported to have died at Reno, Nevada, several days ago, after a long illness with consumption. The deceased, about ten years ago, lived in this city and was well known here at that time. He was 45 years old, unmarried, and a native of Sweden.

May Not Recover—

Sam Johnson, the man who was kicked in the head by a horse a few days ago, is in a very critical condition at St. Mary's hospital, and is not expected to live more than a few days at the most. Since the accident he has been unconscious almost continually, excepting Sunday when he was conscious for a few moments only.

Red Men Meet—

The state council of the Improved Order of Red Men will meet at Medford today. Delegates from Astoria

will be present, as follows: Thomas Loughery, Peter Dourel, Andrew Birch and Thomas Dealey. W. C. A. Pohl and Dr. Henderson are officers of the grand body and will also be present.

Middle Of August—

Captain Obee, the gentleman who is out here seeking to develop the deep-sea trawling fisheries, and who is now on Puget Sound seeking a steamer of size and build adequate to the actual service, has written a friend here that he has discovered the exact thing he wants and is negotiating a charter and hopes to have the vessel in Astoria waters by the middle of the coming month.

A Happy Crew—

J. S. Morris, of Portland, who maintains a cozy house-boat on Young's River, near the falls, is at present, host to a pleasant party of gentlemen friends, who joined him yesterday for a week's outing. They were Messrs. H. C. Bowers, "mine host" of the Hotel Portland; Ion Lewis, the well known architect, and who designed the new "Weinhard-Astoria" for this city; Wert Minor, H. O. Stickney, W. H. Hurlburt, J. D. Wilcox, and J. C. Lewis.

Forest Fires Reported—

Reports from Portland state that there is a bad forest fire back of Goble and one of even larger proportions near Rainier. For the past four or five days a big blaze has been raging along the Willamette near the mouth of the Willamette slough. Because of the fact that the woods are green and fairly damp the fires have not made rapid headway. A passenger who came down on the A. & C. yesterday morning from Portland states that he saw no evidence of the fires from the train.

Seaside Improvement—

The completion of Seaside's new and handsome postoffice building, by Alex Gilbert, Sr., is a distinct credit to the coast city and to its builder, who is very happy over the prompt and cordial reception given it by the department officers sent out to examine, and accept it. It is absolutely modern in all details, and is equipped

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with 450 boxes, each with a combination lock, thus doing away with keys. Mr. Gilbert was in the city yesterday and was the recipient of congratulations on all sides.

Will Have It Treated—

Civil Engineer J. G. Kelly, who is here to supervise the auxiliary water pipe line needed by the Astoria Water Commission, had the misfortune to get a fly in his left eye on Sunday, and the insect has left its mark in very tangible and painful shape. The optic is wickedly inflamed and he has had to cover it as the light seemed to make it rapidly worse, hour by hour. He left up for Portland last evening to advise with his family physician and to have the matter treated.

Timbers Will Not Bother—

Superintendent John McGuire of the A. & C. was in the city yesterday, to square his church delinquencies, and attend to some passing matters for his company. Among the latter, was the question of removing the big stringers now piled on the company's right-of-way on the Flavel dock; and he gave out the assurance that by the time the regatta grandstand shall be needed, the timbers will not be in the way; that they will have been absorbed, by that time, in the trestling now under general repair.

Cathlamet Woman Dead—

Mrs. Annie Peterson, age 35, died in this city Sunday night after a long illness of consumption. The deceased was for many years a resident of Cathlamet, but came to Astoria recently to receive medical attention. She was a native of Sweden, and leaves a husband and two children. Her funeral will be held this afternoon from Gilbaugh's funeral parlors, with services there, conducted by the Rev. Gustave E. Rydquist, pastor of the First Lutheran church. The interment will be in Greenwood cemetery.

Recovery Slow—

John N. Stademan, the victim of the Rose City accident two weeks ago, continues to improve although very slowly. He is not yet able to sit up without assistance. The sisters have given him postal cards with a picture of the hospital on them, which he is sending to his friends and relatives throughout the country, letting them know about the accident, and how it happened. His recovery is not as rapid as was expected the first week after it happened, and it may yet be several weeks before he will be out of the hospital.

Alaska Mails Arrive—

The mails from far Alaska arrived here yesterday, bringing letters for hundreds of homes in this city, and to many of its big business offices. The Alaska Fishermen's Packing Company received a detailed report from its bookkeeper at the Nushagak plant, Mr. J. J. Leonard, the substance of which was that the plant and people had gotten down to work; that all were well, the work going on smoothly, with good prospects for a normal pack for the season. The Warren Packing Company also received word to the same cheerful effect.

Against Oregon Mills—

The complaint in a suit brought by C. H. Callender against the Old Oregon Mills at Warrenton was filed in the office of the county clerk last Saturday. The complaint asks for judgment in the sum of \$12,216.44, alleged to be due on a contract made between the parties in the year 1906. According to the instrument on file, the plaintiff agreed to furnish 7,000,000 feet of logs at \$13.25 per thousand, and that of these a certain number were delivered and paid for in part, but that later the defendant company refused to accept any more of the logs.

Off For His Farm—

Capt. John C. Reed, master of the bar tug Wallula, accompanied by Mrs. Reed, will leave today for their new farm home in the Nehalem valley, for a brief outing, while his vessel is under repair at Portland. Captain Reed purchased the place on Saturday last and will formally take possession this trip. He intimates that when the stock and cattle are sold by the Probate Court next month, he will probably buy them in, and thus thoroughly equip himself as a farmer, whether he leaves the sea to follow the quest just now, or now. His friends wish him success and happiness in his new venture, anyway!

May Start Work Soon—

according to a statement of Mr. Lewis, the architect, who was in the city yesterday, is the lack of bricks, which are to be furnished by the Astoria Clay Product Company. Mr. Lewis said it is the intention of the owners of the new hotel to patronize home industry, and they are not waiting for a sample of the bricks to be turned out by the new company, to be submitted to the contractors, and if approved will be used in the new structure. The delay at the brick plant is owing to the delay in their machinery which has been ordered in the east some time ago and should have been here long before this. However, the equipment is expected to arrive almost any day now.

Greek Cuts Hingu—

Crisophoro Fallas, who still owes allegiance to King George of Greece, was bound over in Justice Goodman's court yesterday afternoon to the September term of the Circuit Court on a charge of having slashed A. Singh with a pocket knife. Singh comes from India's coral strands. Both work in the Hammond mills, and one night recently an altercation arose between several Hindus and the Greek and then it was that Fallas wielded his knife, cutting Singh in the wrist. It seems that the Greek was having lumber shoved at him by the Hindus faster than he could handle and he protested in a manner that brought on the fight. Fallas put up \$100 cash bail for his appearance in the Circuit Court. The hearing was prosecuted by District Attorney Howard Brownell and C. J. Curtis appeared for the defense.

For The Law Officers—

A tragedy was narrowly averted by mere chance on Sunday last, and the incident suggests a line of action on the part of the law officers of the city and county, that it is hoped they will take without loss of time. Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Ridehalge and their two little sons were rambling over the hills south of the high reservoir about noon, when they were startled by a fusillade of shots above them, and instantly, the ping and swish of flying bullets were heard all about them, one of the vicious things passing between them as they stood but a few feet apart. Mr. Ridehalge instantly sent up a shout of warning and ran in the distance whence the firing came. He could not distinguish the parties, who immediately fled the spot on seeing their reckless blunder, but he is inclined to think they were foreigners, being dark and swarthy. They made no stops but hustled out of range and sight on the instant. This sort of recklessness should be stopped by the law and its representatives and by the sharpest penalties known.

German Is Insane—

Andrew Klahn, a native of Germany, 49 years of age, was adjudged insane yesterday afternoon and committed to the state asylum for the insane at Salem. Klahn has been acting queerly the past week or two and for the past week has been at St. Mary's hospital. Yesterday morning he was removed to the county jail and later examined before Judge Trenchard. Dr. Fulton made the examination, and while it was not possible to form an exact diagnosis, it appeared as if Klahn is suffering from a general weakening or softening of the brain. He is not violent. Lately he has been found wandering aimlessly about and frequently suffers from a complete loss of memory. As far as can be learned, Klahn has led an orderly life and has been a strong man mentally and physically. Cases of insanity are quite infrequent among the foreign born Germans in Astoria, and while mental trouble is only too common among some of the other foreigners, it seems difficult to ascribe any adequate cause for it. One cause commonly ascribed is the changed conditions of life here, where many of them dress and eat far better than in their own countries. This, however, to many does not appear either a reasonable or a plausible explanation. While Clatsop county sends as many patients to the state asylums as any other county in the state, save perhaps one or two in Eastern Oregon, where insanity is common among sheepherders, as far as is known the medical authorities at the Salem institution have never made any particular study of the causes here that lead to the unfortunate condition.

New Business Venture.

Mr. E. G. Gunall has opened a boot and shoe repairing establishment in the building at the corner of Eighth and Commercial streets, formerly occupied by N. Akerman. Your patronage is respectfully solicited. Open

MANY MATTERS ARE DISCUSSED

TELEPHONE FRANCHISE AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION LAST NIGHT.

At the regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce last night many matters of importance were considered. The session was an interesting one, the meeting was well attended, and more than ordinary interest was developed in the discussions. Chief among the matters discussed or passed upon were the following:

Appointment of committee to attend good roads convention.

Appointment of committee to look into matter of Chamber of Commerce excursion to Spokane.

Discussion of invitation to join San Francisco and Portland Chambers of Commerce in trip to Japan, at invitation of the Japanese government.

Reports of charter amendment committee, proposing amendment creating the Port of Astoria with broad rights and privileges.

Discussion of telephone matter. The Chamber also endorsed Edward M. Cherry for the position of Lloyd's agency in Astoria, the motion being made by Mr. Finlayson.

John Welch, though not a member of the organization, was accorded leave to address the meeting on the fish legislation matter. He talked in sarcastic manner of the efforts of the fish campaign committee and proposed new legislation to conserve the fishing for Astoria.

Telephone Matter.

Chief among the matters considered was the telephone franchise. Mr. Waggoner, representing the Northwestern Long Distance Telephone Company, explained at length what his company proposed to do in Astoria. He evidently made a favorable impression upon his hearers and stated that his company would either install an automatic system here, if a proper franchise be granted, or would sell the apparatus to the city, in case municipal ownership is desired, or would at all events have a local board of directors and would endeavor to sell stock to local men in the concern. He explained that it is the policy of his company to interest all the local capital it can, which is apt to assure better service. It was apparently the sense of the meeting that the effort to install the new system should be favored, although Dr. Barr raised the question as to what attitude Astoria should take on the present concern. Dr. Barr suggested that inasmuch as the Pacific States has invested its money here and has certain vested rights in the community that it should, perhaps, not be abandoned and cast out in the cold entirely.

"It serves it right," said a voice. "It ought to go out in the cold."

However, the matter was ended by the appointment of a committee to "keep the telephone matter alive" and to see that all proper respect should be paid to the present concern consistent with the efforts to establish a rival concern. The motion for the committee was made by H. G. Van Dusen and he and the following four were appointed on this telephone committee: A. S. Scherneckau, Dr. C. W. Barr, James Finlayson and A. S. Skyles.

Port of Astoria.

G. Wingate, as chairman of the committee appointed to prepare charter amendments relating to giving Astoria certain broad rights, submitted a long report of such proposed amendments, which had been prepared by an attorney.

These amendments would give the city the rights to improve the Columbia river, and Young's river and Young's bay, and to keep open the channels therein, so as "to safely accommodate all craft of whatsoever character or dimensions," and for that purpose to buy and own dredges etc.

Also to own and operate a pilot and towage service, and to own and operate tug boats and pilots, etc.

Also to control and regulate the uses of the harbor and to regulate and control the uses of all docks and slips, etc.

Also to make, change, modify or abolish wharf lines, etc.

Also to acquire own and operate a drydock to accommodate vessels 400 feet in length, etc.

Also providing for special taxes to pay for these things, and for the

This report was drawn up with technical skill and covered many points that are only hinted at here, as the full report would fill several columns of a newspaper.

A lively tilt arose between Mr. Wingate and Judge Taylor as to what disposition should be made of this report. Mr. Wingate wanted it adopted, but Judge Taylor, who was also a member of the committee, complained that he and other members had no opportunity to look into the matter. In turn Mr. Wingate retorted by saying that for two months he had been trying to get Judge Taylor and other members of the committee to meet together, but never had been able to do so. The meeting finally voted to return the entire matter to the special committee again for consideration and to report at the next session. It is probable that there will be some dissensions within the committee over the proposed amendments.

Good Roads Committee.

The secretary and manager, Mr. Whyte, read the invitation to attend the Good Road's convention in Portland on August 11th and President Scholfield exulted on the great need of Astoria joining in on such a movement. President Scholfield said that he had striven hard during the day to select a good committee to go to Portland. He announced the appointment of the following who are to pay their own expenses throughout:

F. A. Fisher, P. A. Stokes, Herman Wise, O. I. Peterson, C. J. Curtis, J. Q. A. Bowsby, J. S. Dellinger, E. Z. Ferguson, J. E. Gratke, H. G. Van Dusen A. Brix.

Trip To Japan.

Mr. Whyte explained that as far as he understood the trip to Japan would cost nothing but the fare between here and San Francisco. His report read:

"Members of the commercial organizations of the Northwest have been invited to take a trip to Japan leaving San Francisco on a Japanese steamer September 25th. We thought that it might be possible some of our local people desire to make this trip and if such is the case we would be glad to have their names in the office and in the meantime we will find out what will be the exact expenses. The party according to the proposed itinerary will sail from Japan November 4th. Those who would make the trip would have to leave Astoria about the 20th of September and expect to be gone until about the first of December."

Spokane Excursion.

Mr. Finlayson made a suggestion which seemed to meet with instant favor. He thought that the plan of making an excursion to Spokane should be revived; a trip by rail all the way for now that the last bridge is up and in working order, it is readily possible for the trip. "Astoria to Spokane, by direct rail route." It was moved that the secretary be instructed to at once write for rates, etc.

Dairy Proposition.

The long cherished dairy proposition seems now to be in a fair way of realization. Mr. and Mrs. H. Wiese arrived in Astoria yesterday, but inasmuch as Mr. Wiese was very tired last night he did not attend the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. It is proposed to start a milk condenser here. It has already been learned that enough milk can be secured to furnish an ample supply for the condenser. Mr. Wiese is said to be highly skilled in all such matters. It is thought that there will be little or no trouble to finance this matter.

The Passion Play.

This well known religious drama will be shown at The Jewel Theatre, beginning Sunday afternoon, July 26, and continuing to and including Wednesday evening.

Evening performances, accompanied by a lecture will begin promptly at 7:15. Afternoons, excepting Sunday, only one performance will be given, starting at 3 o'clock.

A program that is highly interesting and of an educational nature is promised yet the price of admission will be within reach of all—ten cents.

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